

SECRET

18 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harry C. Eisenbeiss
Executive Staff, Office of the DDI

SUBJECT : National Security Action Memorandum No. 362

1. NSAM 362, dated 9 May 1967 was designed to be, and remains, the basic charter and guideline for the conduct of pacification operations in South Vietnam and the provision of U.S. support thereto. It therefore has a profound effect on the activities and responsibilities of this Agency and is a document that vitally affects our interests.

2. In its present form, NSAM 362 is outdated on several counts. It is the instrument for Mr. Komer's appointment to a position he no longer holds and which is now held by Ambassador Colby. It was the instrument for appointing Ambassador Leonhart to a Washington function that was never really discharged and now no longer exists. Furthermore, it was designed to facilitate the transition from an old structure to a new structure. This new structure has been in existence for 18 months, and hence transitional guidance and direction is not directly germane to the realities of the situation in Vietnam.

3. NSAM 362 should be reconsidered and rewritten. This is a task that should not be done in haste and one which will need careful consideration. Rather than suggesting alternate language during the course of this current review exercise, we would recommend that the Bundy Committee, which is now formally designated an ad hoc sub-committee under the NSC, be tasked with considering NSAM 362 and offering a revised version for proper NSC consideration. This recommendation has the concurrence and support of the Chief of the Far East Division.

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Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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